

Serial No.: 10/766,139
Docket No.: PVI-5541DIVCON
Amendment After Final dated November 27, 2006
Responsive to the FINAL Office Action dated September 22, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A two-part prosthetic heart valve for implantation within a native heart valve, comprising:

a substantially cylindrical tissue-engaging base portion expandable from a collapsed state to an expanded state, the collapsed state sized for delivery through a delivery catheter to a heart valve annulus and the expanded state sized to contact the heart valve annulus; and

a leaflet subassembly including a self-expandable metallic support structure and three heart valve leaflets, the leaflets being attached to the support structure at commissures, wherein the support structure has a fabric covering and the three heart valve leaflets are attached to the support structure at least in part by stitches along the fabric covering;

wherein the tissue-engaging base portion and leaflet subassembly are separate components and the leaflet subassembly is configured to mechanically connect to the tissue-engaging base portion at the time of an implant procedure for providing a prosthetic heart valve.

19. (Previously presented) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 18, wherein the support structure comprises a wireform and wherein the three heart valve leaflets are attached

Serial No.: 10/766,139

Docket No.: PVI-5541DIVCON

Amendment After Final dated November 27, 2006

Responsive to the FINAL Office Action dated September 22, 2006

to the wireform.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 18, wherein the support structure comprises an elastic wireform for supporting the leaflets and wherein the wireform provides alternating commissures and cusps.

22. (Previously presented) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 18, wherein the three heart valve leaflets are individual leaflets attached to the support structure separately from each other.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 18, wherein the three heart valve leaflets are formed of bioprosthetic tissue.

25. (Previously presented) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 18, wherein the tissue-engaging base portion is plastically-expandable from its collapsed state to its expanded state.

26. (Previously presented) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 18, wherein the tissue-engaging base portion is self-expandable from its collapsed state to its expanded state.

27-37. (Canceled)

Serial No.: I0/766,139

Docket No.: PVI-5541DIVCON

Amendment After Final dated November 27, 2006

Responsive to the FINAL Office Action dated September 22, 2006

38. (Currently amended) A two-part prosthetic heart valve for implantation within a native heart valve, comprising:

a tissue-engaging base expandable from a collapsed state to an expanded state, the collapsed state sized for advancement through a patient's vasculature to a heart valve annulus and the expanded state sized to engage the heart valve annulus and having an outflow end, the tissue-engaging base having a plurality of commissure posts rigidly attached to extend beyond the outflow end and a plurality of cusp posts rigidly attached to extend beyond the outflow end;

a leaflet subassembly including a support structure and three heart valve leaflets, the leaflets being attached to the support structure at their commissures, wherein the support structure comprises an elastic wireform for supporting the leaflets and wherein the wireform provides alternating commissures and cusps; and

a plurality of discrete mating connectors on the leaflet subassembly and tissue-engaging base, one each on the leaflet subassembly and base forming a pair of mating connectors, the mating connectors configured to mechanically couple the leaflet subassembly to the tissue-engaging base when the tissue-engaging base is in the expanded state, each commissure post and cusp post having one of the mating connectors thereon for securely coupling to a mating connector on one of the commissures and cusps of the elastic wireform.

39. (Currently amended) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 38, wherein the tissue-engaging base ~~portion~~ is plastically-expandable from the collapsed state to the expanded state.

40.-42. (Canceled)

Serial No.: 10/766,139

Docket No.: PVI-5541DIVCON

Amendment After Final dated November 27, 2006

Responsive to the FINAL Office Action dated September 22, 2006

43. (Previously presented) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 38, wherein each pair of the mating connectors joins by axially displacing the leaflet subassembly toward the tissue-engaging base.

44. (Currently amended) A two-part prosthetic heart valve for implantation within a native heart valve, comprising:

a tissue-engaging base expandable from a collapsed state sized for advancement through a delivery catheter to an expanded state sized to contact the valve annulus, the tissue-engaging base generally defining a tubular body having an inflow end and an outflow end; and

a leaflet subassembly including three heart valve leaflets, wherein the tissue-engaging base and leaflet subassembly are separate components and the leaflet subassembly is adapted to mechanically couple to the tissue-engaging base at the time of an implant procedure to form a prosthetic heart valve;

wherein, after assembly, the three heart valve leaflets are axially spaced from the outflow end of the tubular body such that the heart valve leaflets are not positioned within the tubular body.

45. (Currently amended) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 44, wherein the tissue-engaging base portion is plastically-expandable from its collapsed state to its expanded state.

46. (Previously presented) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 44, wherein the leaflet subassembly comprises an elastic wireform having alternating commissures and cusps for supporting the three heart valve leaflets.

Serial No.: 10/766,139

Docket No.: PVI-5541DIVCON

Amendment After Final dated November 27, 2006

Responsive to the FINAL Office Action dated September 22, 2006

47. (Previously presented) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 46, wherein the leaflet subassembly is configured to mechanically couple to the tissue-engaging base along a plurality of discrete locations.

48. (Currently amended) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 44, further comprising mechanical ~~metallie~~ coupling members on the tissue-engaging base and leaflet subassembly for allowing the leaflet subassembly to mechanically couple to the tissue-engaging base.

49. (Currently amended) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 48, wherein the mechanical ~~metallie~~ coupling members on the tissue-engaging base comprise axial posts configured for connection to the mechanical coupling members on the leaflet subassembly.

50. (New) A two-part prosthetic heart valve for implantation within a native heart valve, comprising:

a tissue-engaging base expandable from a collapsed state to an expanded state, the collapsed state sized for advancement through a patient's vasculature to a heart valve annulus and the expanded state sized to engage the heart valve annulus;

a leaflet subassembly including a support structure and three heart valve leaflets, the leaflets being attached to the support structure at their commissures; and

a plurality of discrete mating connectors on the leaflet subassembly and tissue-engaging base, one each on the leaflet subassembly and base forming a pair of mating connectors, the mating connectors configured to join simultaneous with axial displacement of the leaflet subassembly toward the tissue-engaging base when the tissue-engaging base is in the expanded state so as to mechanically couple the leaflet subassembly to the tissue-engaging base.

Serial No.: 10/766,139

Docket No.: PVI-5541DIVCON

Amendment After Final dated November 27, 2006

Responsive to the FINAL Office Action dated September 22, 2006

51. (New) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 50, wherein the tissue-engaging base is plastically-expandable from the collapsed state to the expanded state.
52. (New) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 50, wherein the support structure comprises an elastic wireform for supporting the leaflets and wherein the wireform provides alternating commissures and cusps.
53. (New) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 52, wherein mating connectors on the leaflet subassembly are provided on each of the commissures and cusps of the elastic wireform.
54. (New) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 52, further including a plurality of commissure posts rigidly attached to the tissue-engaging base so as to extend generally axially beyond the outflow end, and a plurality of cusp posts rigidly attached to the tissue-engaging base so as to extend beyond the outflow end, each commissure post and cusp post having one of the mating connectors thereon for securely coupling to a mating connector on one of the commissures and cusps of the elastic wireform.
55. (New) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 50, wherein the mating connectors are joined together by axial compression.
56. (New) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 55, wherein the mating connectors are configured to snap fit together.
57. (New) The two-part prosthetic heart valve of claim 55, wherein one of each pair of mating connectors comprises a partial circle opening in an axial direction toward the other of the pair.